

# JAN 6 BENHAM MADE GOOD RECORD

Capt. Thomas Benham, one of the leading skippers sailing out of this port has made a fine record this season that has seldom been surpassed. During the past season in sch. Athlete he sailed from here in March, and made two salt codfishing trips and at the close of the codfishing season, November 1, then engaged in the Newfoundland salt and frozen herring fishery, and in the short space of two months, has made two trips, one of which was for salt and the other frozen, both of which were procured at Bonne Bay. Capt. Benham says on his last trip they had excellent weather for freezing a cargo, which was done in quick time, as herring plenty, and with favorable winds, he made a quick run home, without meeting with accident of any kind.

## Fish Catch at Prince Rupert.

The Daily Trade and Consular Report has the following to say concerning the fishery catch at Prince Rupert:

The catch for October entered at Prince Rupert amounted to 9,818 hundredweight of fish, worth \$49,090 on the valuation of 5 cents per pound. Of this amount there were 877,800 pounds of halibut valued at \$43,890, 60,000 pounds of salmon valued at \$3,000, and 44,000 pounds of cod valued at \$2,200. Most of the halibut was hauled by the cold-storage plant; of the salmon 40,000 pounds were used in a fresh condition or frozen for shipment and the remaining 20,000 pounds were used by the Indians for winter supplies. This was smoked by them in the immediate vicinity of Prince Rupert, and will form one of the staple articles of their diet during the coming winter. Twenty four thousand pounds of cod were used in the fresh state and the remainder 20,000 pounds, was shipped green salted.

It is reported that in southeastern Alaska five plants are being constructed to utilize the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway on its completion next year for the shipment of fresh fish to eastern markets by way of Prince Rupert. The largest plant, it is said, will have a capacity of 6,000,000 pounds a year, while the smallest one will have a capacity of 1,500,000 pounds. It is also reported that three large Chicago packing houses, which have not heretofore been interested in fish packing, are negotiating for canneries in Alaska for a similar purpose.

## Porto Rico Fish Market.

In spite of the very light arrivals of the last two or three weeks and of the small supplies afloat, due this week, we cannot report any material recovery in the situation beyond a gradual reduction of the over-supply under which our markets had weakened. This reduction will no doubt pave the way for a general improvement, which, however, would hardly affect the present supplies of rather inferior fish.

We quote superior qualities about as follows, net ex store: Codfish, \$29 to \$30; pollock and haddock, \$22; while inferior goods are being sold at much lower prices.—Reported by S. Ramirez & Co.

JAN. 6

World's Lobster Catch.

It is estimated that the annual catch of lobsters in the world is 125,000,000, and off this Nova Scotia supplies 40,000,000, valued at \$2,000,000. The lobster pack that comes from anywhere else than this part of Canada is almost negligible. The lobster fishing has been well maintained of late, thanks to the help of the lobster hatcheries, which are placing in the sea millions of small lobsters yearly. It is still possible at Canso, Nova Scotia, as it is at but few places in the world, for an amateur to watch the lobsters crawling on bottoms of sheltered coves, and fishing them up, carry them home for supper, confident that they will have fresh boiled lobsters. Nova Scotia has a genuine monopoly of the English trade in the supplying of canned lobsters.

# N. F. MAN TELLS SOME FISH STORY

There are many quaint stories told of the Southern Shore, says the St. John's News, and of the deeds and achievements of its fisherfolk, some more or less true; but for a real, genuine feat that puts all others in the background the honor is with Michael Scurry. Place of action, Caplin Bay; time, December 16th, 1913. Patrick Scurry fishes from Caplin Bay, and at the present time is engaged in catching salmon, which is a very profitable business at this season, when fish can be had. Yesterday morning Mr. Scurry rowed out to overhauled his salmon nets and made a catch of fish, flesh and fowl at the one time. When he reached the net, the centre was entirely submerged, and he assured himself a good haul. After pulling in the "twine" he was the most surprised man in the world to find that meshed in the net was a twenty pound salmon, a live otter and a live loon. He disposed of the life of the latter quickly, but the otter he left tangled in the net and rowed to the land, and when he told of his catch was acclaimed the hero of the Southern Shore. There is no doubt as to the correctness of the story, according to Mr. E. Carew, Capt. Broyle, though it looks "fishy." Several passengers who came by the Portia were present when the fisherman rowed to the shore, and one of the number offered \$12 for the otter, but the owner refused to sell. In any case the fisherman made a good day's pay, the salmon itself being worth \$4. The loon, however, is worth less, particularly for food purposes. Whenever one is used for the latter, it is generally boiled and there is a peculiar custom of finding out when the bird is sufficiently cooked to masticate. The custom is: The loon is put in a pot of boiling water, and at the same time a grindstone. When the cook finds it possible to penetrate the grindstone with a two-pronged fork—the loon is ready for the table.

## Steam Trawler Forced Back.

The steam trawler Billow, after having been anchored in quarantine, Boston harbor two days, undertook to leave the lower harbor yesterday forenoon, but was forced to return to her anchorage.

# FISHING GOOD AT NEWFOUNDLAND

One more round trip is to be made by the steamer Seal. She arrived from the west coast of Newfoundland yesterday morning and reported unusual fishing and navigating conditions. The harbors along the west coast of the Ancient Colony are utterly free from ice and the mild weather enables the Seal to make another cruise that will be completed after the middle of January. Most of the Seal's full cargo of herring was taken on at Bonne Bay and Trout River, where the fishing has never been better for 30 years, it is said, although these fish are abandoning their old haunts at Bay of Islands. One of the features of this year's herring fishing is the presence of the large species which had not been caught in recent years. Hitherto the boatmen have been operating with small mesh nets, but a year ago a larger mesh was introduced and the result is seen in this season's great catch. It is a matter of conjecture whether or not the large herring have been in those waters the past few years without the fishermen knowing it. They disappeared many years ago and the smaller variety came instead and thus were the fishermen compelled to adopt the use of the small mesh.

The fishing is almost wholly conducted by gasoline schooners of recent build and so successful have been the catches that the sharemen have been clearing from a hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars for six weeks work at most.

Herring have also been found in large number at Placentia Bay this month. The fishermen have caught more than they can handle, although if they found sufficient buyers their output could be doubled or even trebled. But as it is a long time since there has been any abundance of herring in that section schooners did not arrange to go there for cargoes. It was too late for Nova Scotian and Gloucester vessels to consider going to Placentia after the season had opened.—Halifax Herald, January 29.

# CAPT. O'BRIEN HITS IT AGAIN

Sch. Alice of Boston, Capt. John O'Brien, from North Bay, called at Mulgrave, Friday, bound for market, with a banner trip of fresh fish.

JANUARY 7

## Sch. Premier Hero.

The Premier has arrived in port towing from Yarmouth, N. S., where she was damaged by falling over on the ways while repairs were being made, after having gone ashore on the Nova Scotia coast. She is taking out ballast at Davis Brothers' wharf after which she will go on the ways for a thorough overhauling.

# N. S. STRONG FOR COLD STORAGE

The matter of cold storage facilities which has become a pretty live subject in Nova Scotia is attracting attention among the fish dealers, fishermen of St. John and Charlottetown. St. John has a large storage plant, controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway, but it is dom if ever used for fish.

The Dominion Government, granted heavy bonuses to encourage the erection of large mechanical storage plants at various points Nova Scotia, but so far nothing has been done along this line in either John or Charlotte County on a scale of any importance. The good results which have attended the development of cold storage facilities in Nova Scotia is, however, directing attention to the possibilities of similar development, particularly in Charlotte County. There is no doubt a considerable bonus would be given to the development of the fisheries if cold storage facilities were provided at certain points in Charlotte County. What is obtainable, the old-fashioned methods do not lend themselves to enlarged operations. Although there are few sections of the coast where herring at different seasons are as abundant as around Grand Bay and Charlotte County, the local fishermen are occasionally hard put to procure bait. With cold storage facilities an abundant supply of herring bait could be assured the year around and a good deal of bait could be at a profit to Nova Scotian and American fishing vessels. Even under present conditions, when it is not easy to keep bait for any long time in a factory condition, a good many vessels procure bait from Grand Bay and points on the shores of Charlotte County.

M. H. Nickerson, formerly editor of the "Coast Guard," has recently contributed a series of articles to provincial papers, urging the importance of cold storage facilities to both fishermen of Nova Scotia and Brunswick. Mr. Nickerson is now advocating the formation of a company to operate a steamship service between Shelburne and points on the shore of Nova Scotia to Portland. His idea is that a boat equipped with cold storage running to Portland would enable the fishermen of the south shore to ship their product to the Montreal, Toronto and other per Canadian markets, as well as points in the States, in much better time and in better condition than possible by the Halifax route.

In the wholesale market fresh fish which was selling here a week ago at 3 to 3½¢ a pound, is at present quoted at 3½ to 4¢. Fresh haddock, which was selling at 2½ to 3¢ a pound, is now quoted at 3 to 3½¢ a pound. In the markets oysters are selling for 1½ to 2¢ a quart.

## Capt Bob Wharton Fitting Out

Sch Yakima, Capt Robert Wharton, which has been laying up for the few weeks, is being fitted out to resume the halibut fishery.



Our fisheries, fresh water and salt may be, if properly used, an inexhaustible self-renewing storehouse of food. If greed is allowed to work its will they can be exhausted in a few decades beyond the repair of half a century of cultivation. It has been, is and will be a continual struggle to prevent the treasure house from looting and the hands of private concerns, which are interested not in operating for the permanent welfare of the country but for the immediate profits of themselves—the fisheries are as much a national property as the forests and the water power, and as such should be administered. Travelers returning from the Pacific coast relate the sickening sense of waste they feel at the expense of the government maintaining salmon hatcheries the labor in which is almost nullified by the greedy fishing of the canneries; and of the ruthless cutting of the priceless pine forests. The fisheries are scheduled for just another such programme unless we prevent it. On our own coast the methods of the steam trawlers are being investigated by government officers with a view to preventing the use of this gear shown to be wasteful and destructive. England has been all through this phase; has depleted her North Sea fisheries and seen the quality deteriorate and the price advance without any prospect of remedy. If it is possible to profit by an unfortunate example, the English fisheries furnish it.—Boston Transcript.



Jan 7.

## Some Big Money for Mustling Skippers

Capt. Enos Nickerson of sch. Frances S. Grueby certainly is in luck again, his recent fine fare of ground-fish landed at Boston Monday netting a stock of \$3450, from which the crew shared \$96 clear. The Grueby carries 19 dories, single fishings.

In the teeth of the heavy north-wester, Capt. Nickerson drove her along for market, determined to be there for the opening and secure the benefit of the prices. With his sails reefed to the last notch the Grueby arrived at the dock without a mishap and it was as the skipper had calculated, the storm of the preceding week had made fish scarce and consequently there was a fine market. The dealers wanted fish and badly too, so they bid her up, until Capt. Nickerson was satisfied that it was time to sell and the \$5,000 pound fare of had-dock, cod and hake was unloaded. It is the largest trip of the season, so far.

Sch. Catherine Burke, Capt. Daniel McDonald, which arrived at Boston Monday with one of the season's best in the halibut fishery, weighed off 33,000 pounds fresh halibut in addition to 8000 pounds salt cod.

As a result of the trip, the vessel stocked \$4658.43, from which each of her crew shared \$116.59 clear to a man. The stock is one of the best for a long time and of course the banner one for 1914. Capt. McDonald fished in his old favorite spot, on the Quero side of the Gully, securing his fare during an absence from port three weeks. His many friends and well-wishers hope that this is only a beginner for a big year for the skipper and his men.

Sch. Alice, Capt. James O'Brien arrived at Portland, Sunday, with a 66,000 pound fare of fresh fish, caught in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where the craft took her previous fine trip. She disposed of the lot to the F. S. Willard Company, stocking the fine sum of \$2,000, from which each of the crew received \$68 clear to a man. Capt. O'Brien was absent two weeks and is keeping up his record as one of the quiet hustlers who keep doing things all the time.

Jan 8.

### On the Railways.

Steamer Mystery was on the Rocky Neck railways yesterday.

Sch. Yakima and steamer Naomi Bruce were on Parkhurst's railways yesterday.

Steamer Philomena is on the Rocky Neck railways.

Sch. Premier is on Burnham Brothers' railways.

### Gill Netter Broke Down.

The gill netting steamer George E. Fisher experienced some trouble with her machinery off Eastern Point last evening while returning to port and steamer Orion, one of the fleet went to her assistance and towed her to Dahmar's wharf at Rocky Neck.

## ARKONA FLEW HOME FROM N. F.

### Wallace Parsons Drove Her Here in 3 Days, and 11 Hours.

With favorable weather and plenty of wind all the way home, sch. Arkona, Capt. Wallace Parsons is back again from his second Newfoundland herring trip of the season, bringing 725 barrels of frozen, 375 barrels salt and 148 barrels of pickled herring.

Capt. Parsons is from the Bay of Islands and on the trip home, came along at a flying pace, making the voyage in three days and 11 hours, one of the fastest passages on record.

Another arrival is that of sch. John R. Bradley, Capt. Dominic Arsenault from Bonne Bay, N. F., with 102 barrels of pickled and 900 barrels frozen herring. The former craft is consigned to the Cunningham & Thompson Company and the latter to the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company.

The hardest kind of luck is being experienced by the gill netters, a number of which have not yet recovered their gear. Small catches prevailed yesterday, the boats dragging the grounds to pick up their nets, which in several instance have been out as long as eight days. A large amount of the gear that has been recovered is badly damaged and torn and it will be several days before repairs have been made.

### Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Arkona, Bay of Islands, N. F., 725 bbls. frozen herring, 375 bbls. salt herring, 148 bbls. pickled herring.

Sch. John R. Bradley, Bonne Bay, N. F., 102 bbls. pickled herring, 900 bbls. frozen herring.

Sch. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Venture, gill netting, 1300 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mary F. Ruth, gill netting, 2200 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Anna T., gill netting, 1900 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Little Fannie, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Seven Brothers, gill netting, 4000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Bryda F., gill netting, 600 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Swan, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Ethel, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Sawyer, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Dolphin, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Medomak, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Nomad, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Orion, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Hugo, gill netting, 700 lbs. fresh fish.

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Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Lorena, gill netting, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Quoddy, gill netting, 700 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 1100 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Alice, gill netting, 550 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Philomena, gill netting.

Str. Bethulia, gill netting.

Str. Geisha, gill netting.

### Yesterday's Arrivals.

Str. Nomad, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Alice, via Portland.

Sch. Laverna, via Boston.

Sch. Premier, via Yarmouth, N. S.

Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, via Boston.

Sch. Priscilla Smith, shore.

Sch. Mary LeCosta, shore.

Sch. Jeanette, shore.

Sch. Adeline, shore.

Sch. Edith Silveria, shore.

Sch. Ethel B. Penny, Boston.

Str. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Bryda F., gill netting, 700 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Venture, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Swan, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Anna T., gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ethel, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. George E. Fisher, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Orion, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Little Fannie, gill netting, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Seven Brothers, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Dolphin, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Killick, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Nora B. Robinson, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Mary F. Ruth, gill netting, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Kineo, halibuting.

Sch. Catherine Burke, halibuting.

Sch. Richard, haddocking.

Sch. Mary Edith, haddocking.

Sch. Manomet, haddocking.

Sch. Flavilla, haddocking.

Sch. Blanche, Newfoundland.

Sch. William Matheson, Newfoundland.

### Portland Fishing News.

There were six fish arrivals in port Tuesday, the schooners Eleanor with 12,000 pounds, Edmund F. Black 5000, Albert Willard 7000, Dorcas 10,000, Fanny Reed 6000 and the North Star with 3000. The sch. Alice, which arrived in port Sunday with 60,000 pounds took out at Willard yesterday and the schooner Eleanor will wait until today before she unloads. One lobster arrival was reported, the auxiliary Annie Louise, which had 3000 lobsters.

## NOVA FISH YEAR SUMMING UP

Says the Halifax Maritime Merchant:

The wholesale fish merchants feeling quite cheerful over the result of last year's business and with local situation today. This time year they were not nearly so well satisfied, as 1912 was a season of fish markets and the end of the year found nearly everyone with large stocks, and rather indifferent foreign markets. They expected to lose money during the winter spring months and we fancy most of them did—or if not, they not make very much. From June ward, however, things were better, markets were firm and advancing the foreign demand was active. We not suspect there was any enormous profits made by the exporters, but the last half of the year they certainly have done quite well, as the fishermen, the results in places were good and in others poor. The Lunenburg banks must have done very well, but shore fishermen, particularly on the Cape Breton coast did not do very much of a showing this year. Bay of Fundy, ports, tho, did better, principally with hake. It seems to have been a remarkable run of hake in our waters this year.

In the pickled fish trade the is that the catch of herring on Nova Scotia coast was unusually small. It is hard to say whether was due to the lack of fish or lack of interest in the industry on part of the fishermen. The trade inclined to think that the latter, or than the former had most to do with the shortage. The catch mackerel was about 18,000 barrels which 10,000 were fat fish; this really a very small catch; but a quantity was sold fresh and brought a good deal of money to the fishermen. A well informed member of trade tells us that our pickled industry is gradually dwindling one has only to look at the figures to see that it is infinitesimal as compared with the catch of the old cod.

The most important event of the year was the opening of the American market to our fish and we understand that all along the coast, particularly in Cape Breton, preparations are being made for the production of the fishing industry. season a large number of men formerly went to Gloucester will duct their operations from a port. A man was saying to us other day that all along the coast there are families who have away from home in the employ factories of one kind or another, that if these factories find business quiet during the coming year, not improbable that a number of their operatives will return to home people and join the fleet again.